

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-16.

1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) An ion exchanger having chelating functional groups prepared by a process according to Claim 1.

18. (Original) An ion exchanger according to Claim 17 having a macro-porous structure.

19. (Original) A process comprising removing heavy metals or noble metals from aqueous solutions, from saline solutions from alkali metal chloride electrolysis, from aqueous hydrochloric acid, from waste water or flue gas scrubber effluent, from ground water or landfill eluate, from liquid or gaseous hydrocarbons, carboxylic acids, or from halogenated hydrocarbons with an ion exchanger having chelating functional groups prepared by a process according to Claim 1.

20. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein the metal is mercury, iron, cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc, lead, cadmium, manganese, uranium, vanadium, elements of the platinum group, gold, silver, or a combination thereof.

21. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein rhodium, elements of the platinum group, gold, silver, rhodium- or noble-metal-containing catalyst residues are removed from organic solutions or solvents.

22. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein heavy metals or noble metals are removed from recycle wastes.

23. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein alkaline-earth metals are removed from saline solutions from alkali metal chloride electrolysis.

24. (Original) A process according to Claim 19 wherein heavy metals are removed from substances that are converted by electrolytic treatment.